THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Physically challenged children are being provided essential support services in regular schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Maharashtra. State SSA follows a zero rejection policy, wherein a multi option model is used to reach out to the Children with Special Needs (CWSN). The State SSA has appointed resource teachers, provided aids and appliances to CWSN and also provided corrective surgeries to CWSN as support services. State SSA has issued directions to the districts regarding barrier-free environment (ramps, handrails and disabled friendly toilets) and 58864 schools have been provided with ramps and handrails. As a result of its multipronged initiatives under SSA, the State has succeeded, in enrolling 3,54,134 CWSN in regular schools, 9676 CWSN in home based education and school readiness programme has been provided to 400 CWSN on pilot basis.

The Government of Maharashtra is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) in the State under which educational facilities are provided to disabled children studying in common schools to facilitate their retention in the school system. These facilities include assistance to the schools in the form of special teachers, assistive aids and enquipments and text books.

Extension campus of IITs in Maharashtra

1732. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Technology, Mumbai is holding talks with the Maharashtra Government to set up an extension campus in the State and this centre would be second centre to be opened;

(b) whether the centre would initially offerr courses in continuing education and short term management programmes;

(c) whether this move is significant, considering that in 2007, Prime Minister had announced the setting up of eight new IITs, so that the institutes cater to the larger student populace; and

(d) if so, by when the centre is likely to be operationalized in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay have approached the Government of Maharashtra to allocate land for setting up a satellite campus with a view to expansion in intake capacity, and not for an extension centre.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quality of food under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†1733. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any alternative mechanism, in view of continuous complaints being received against quality of food being served to the students in schools under Mid-day Meal Scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.